

provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates training on racial profiling issues and the collection of data on both routine and spontaneous investigatory activities, as a condition of receiving Federal law enforcement funding.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Decades ago, this country made clear through the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation that race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. With the cooperation of the administration, we have the opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to eliminating the practice of racial profiling. I hope that we do not miss this historic opportunity to heal the rift caused by racial profiling and restore much of the community's confidence in law enforcement.

HONORING JAMES "JIM" H.
GRIFFIN

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, James "Jim" H. Griffin will retire on July 31, 2010, from the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation after 24 years of dedicated service to the agribusiness community of South Carolina.

Born December 6, 1952, Jim is the youngest of four children. His dad is 91 and still lives at home in Six Mile, South Carolina. His mother, "Sal", passed away last year.

Jim met his wife, Jeanne, on a blind date 37 years ago while she was attending Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Jim convinced Jeanne to transfer to Clemson, where he was studying, and they were married while still in college on June 30, 1973. Their first home was a prefab (tin house) used to house military in World War II. They have two children, Jesse (Charlyn) Griffin of Roanoke, Virginia and Johanna (Rich) Pressley of Indianapolis, Indiana. Jim and Jeanne currently reside at their home in Lexington County, South Carolina.

Jim began his career after college as a teacher, but soon discovered teaching was not his true passion. He then worked in manufacturing and as an association manager until he landed himself at the Farm Bureau in 1983. He did leave the Farm Bureau for a couple of years to work with Habitat for Humanity, which has long been an important cause to him. But the farmers of South Carolina needed him and his love of the agricultural community drew him back to the Farm Bureau.

Jim is now retiring from the position of National Legislative Coordinator—a position that

required frequent trips to Washington. He has worn out many pairs of shoes walking—very rapidly—through the streets of D. C. and halls of Congress leading Farm Bureau members and staff on these visits. I know I speak on behalf of the entire South Carolina Delegation and all those that have had the pleasure of working with him that his warmth, enthusiasm, knowledge and passion for agriculture will be missed both in Washington and in South Carolina.

During Jim's retirement he will enjoy spending more time with his wife and visiting with his children who both live outside of the Carolinas. Jim has long practiced blacksmithing, which he plans to continue, and he will likely pitch in with the backyard chickens his wife Jeanne raises. Jim also has a passion for cooking and hopes that more free time might allow him to cook more often and try new recipes. A man with many hobbies, Jim looks forward to listening to and performing music, particularly bluegrass and old timey tunes. Since the age of 12, Jim has played the harmonica, learning from and being inspired by his blind grandfather who played.

Jim deserves thanks for all the hard work he has done for farming and rural South Carolina. The Farm Bureau will have big shoes to fill. On behalf of the entire delegation, we wish Jim Griffin well in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1405, a Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the independence and self-determination of seventeen African nations from the rule of France, Italy and Great Britain.

The United States of America is dedicated to the advancement of freedom and democracy, and the African nations have proven to be open to the process of democratization, despite the many obstacles that have stood in their way. These nations have fought, struggled, and died for independence, just as our ancestors did, and for these reasons the United States shares a bond with the African continent and its diverse inhabitants.

The United States is dedicated to strengthening its relationship with the African continent and the seventeen nations recognized through this resolution can serve as partners in this endeavor. I also would like to take the time to honor all those Americans on the ground that are working to advance democracy, civic freedom and formulating the conditions to foster stable economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 50th anniversary of these seventeen nation's independence while pledging a renewed commitment to furthering the significant relationship we have maintained with our counterparts on the African continent.

I invite the members of the House to join me in supporting H. Res. 1405.

STORY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
SURVIVOR: VARSENİK DEMIRJIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Below are a few of those stories:

Varsenik Demirjian, a Genocide survivor, eventually made her way to Yerevan, Armenia, where she lived in a comfortable, two-story home with her two sons, their wives and six grandchildren.

According to her family, she did not discuss what transpired during the genocide for most of her life. However, in her final years, she found the strength and will to tell her children and grandchildren what happened. Edward Djrbashian, her great grandson, translated her experiences that took place in Adabazar, Turkey, in 1915:

"I had no idea what the future had in store for me. Yet, my father and mother had heard of what happened to the Armenians in neighboring villages, so they asked our Arabic neighbors to take care of me, just in case something happened. On April 24 of 1915, when I was only five years old, the blood-thirsty Turks invaded our village. Just as my parents predicted, my mother quickly told me to run to the closet and to stay there.

"Panic-stricken, I curled up in the dark closet and in a blink of an eye I heard loud screaming and a loud bang! Out of fear, I dropped the bag of gold coins my mother had given me. The clinking sound alerted the soldier because I heard the clicking of his boots on the hardwood floor coming closer and closer. Thankfully, as he was approaching the closet, one of his superiors called him down and he left the house without finding me. As my eyes closed, I slowly fell asleep.

"After a very long time it seemed, I heard a voice calling, 'Varsenik, Varsenik!'

"The familiar voice comforted me and gave me courage to rush out of the closet.

"My heart sunk when I saw the tears in Hassan's and his wife's eyes.

"I am sorry to be the one to tell you this, but your parents have been murdered," Hassan told me.

"Since that day, my life had never been the same. I lived with Hassan and his wife for a few months. They gave me my own room and fed me well. I didn't mind living with them, but the thought of my parents